

***In the claims:***

1. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for managing tasks comprising:
  - a message manager operating at a high priority level receiving a message from a remote administrator within system firmware to launch a low priority task;
  - said message manager placing a message in a data structure shared between said message manager and a task manager operating at a low priority level;
  - said message manager communicating said low priority task to said task manager through said data structure, wherein the step of communicating said low priority task to said task manager includes setting a flag for signaling receipt of said message and said task manager reading said message in said data structure and launching said low priority task in response to said flag;
  - launching said low priority task received from said message manager in response to receipt of said message and absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of: a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation; and
  - resetting said flag following launch of said low priority task.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of launching said lower priority task includes an agent.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving said message from said remote administrator includes a dispatcher.
4. Canceled
5. Canceled
6. Canceled
7. Canceled

8. Canceled
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said message manager maintains a level of operation.
10. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:  
a remote administrator located in firmware;  
a set of resources loaded in said firmware and in communication with said remote administrator, said resources comprising:  
a message manager operating at a high priority level to receive a message from said administrator to launch a low priority level task;  
a task manager operating at a low priority level to launch said low priority level task;  
a data structure to store said message—shared between said message manager and said task manager to facilitate communication between said message manager and said task manager;  
said message manager to communicate said low priority level task to said task manager through said data structure;  
said task manager to launch said low priority level task received from said message manager in response to receipt of said message in said data structure and absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation; and  
a flag to indicate to said task manager receipt of said message in said data structure, wherein said task manager reads said message in said data structure and launches said low priority level task in response to said flag, and wherein said task manager resets said flag following launch of said low priority level task.
11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said message manager is a dispatcher.
12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said task manager is an

agent.

13. Canceled

14. Canceled

15. Canceled

16. Canceled

17. Canceled

18. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said higher priority task maintains a level of operation.

19. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a computer-readable recordable data storage medium;

means in the medium for receiving a message from a remote administrator within system firmware— to launch a low priority level task, wherein receipt of said message is by a message manager operating— at a high priority level;

means in the medium for storing said message in a data structure shared between said message manager— and a task manager operating at a low priority level; and

means in the medium for communicating said low priority level task to said task manager through said data structure, including setting a flag to signal receipt of said message and said task manager reading said message in said data structure and launching said low priority level task in response to said flag, including means in the medium for launching a said low priority level task received from said message manager in response to receipt of said message and absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of: a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation, wherein said task manager resets said flag following launch of said low priority level task.

20. Canceled

21. Canceled

22. Canceled

23. Canceled

24. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 19, further comprising means in the medium for maintaining a level of operation by a higher priority level task.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

- receiving a message from a remote administrator within system firmware to launch a low priority level task, wherein receipt of said message is by a message manager<sub>—</sub> operating at a higher priority level than said low priority level task;

- storing said message in a data structure shared between said message manager<sub>—</sub> and a task manager operating at a low priority level;

- communicating said low priority level task to said task manager through said data structure;

- setting a flag to indicate receipt of said message in said data structure to said task manager;

- reading said message in said data structure and launching said low priority level task in response to said flag by task manager including said task manager launching said low priority level task received from said message manager in response to said message and absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of: a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation; and

- resetting said flag following launch of said low priority level task.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising said message manager maintaining a level of operation.